

Health Department

Disease Reporting Line Telephone: (801) 525-5220 – Fax: (801) 525-5210

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Health Update

June 23, 2014

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

To date, two imported cases of MERS-CoV have been confirmed in the United States. The two cases are not linked; however, both are healthcare workers who were traveling from Saudi Arabia to the United States. Both patients were hospitalized, treated, and have since been discharged. There is currently no evidence of sustained spread of MERS-CoV in community settings and no additional confirmed cases have been reported in Utah or any other states.

Healthcare providers should evaluate patients for MERS-CoV infection if they present with a fever (≥38° C, 100.4° F) and pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula (including Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen) or have had close contact with either a symptomatic traveler to the Arabian Peninsula or a confirmed or probable case of MERS.

Please consult the Davis County Health Department (801-525-5220) immediately on suspected cases of MERS-CoV to determine the patient's risk exposure and need for confirmatory testing. For current information on MERS-CoV please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/MERS/index.html

New Polio Vaccination Requirements for International Travelers

Recent transmission of wild poliovirus to several foreign countries has caused the World Health Organization to issue new polio vaccination requirements for long-term international travelers and residents of countries with active polio transmission. These countries include Afghanistan, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, and Syria. In connection with this new requirement, the CDC recommends that U.S. travelers headed to these countries receive a booster dose of an inactivated poliovirus (IPV) and document the administration in their yellow International Certificate of Vaccination to avoid delays in their transit. For additional guidance, please refer to http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2014/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/poliomyelitis

Davis County Health Department's International Travel Clinic provides pre-travel consultations and immunizations for travelers going abroad. For an appointment, call 801-525-5020 (M, T, & F) or 801-298-3919 (W & Th).